

## Mario Grande

I am asking for your vote for a seat on the Garrett Park Town Council when we *mail* in our ballots on or before May 4<sup>th</sup>. This year is so very different than anything any of us have experienced at any point in our lives, not just on a personal and professional level. But also on a community level. The decisions we make as a town over the next 12-24 months and how we work together and treat each other will determine the path we set into the rest of the decade. I genuinely believe this to be true. There will be several difficult decisions to be made and many opinions on the best path forward for Garrett Park. And goodness knows, if you put a dozen Garrett Parkers in a room together you will get a dozen points of view. That's what I love about this Town. It's a noisy Mosaic!

What I believe I bring to the Town Council can be summed up in *Five C's*: **Communication, Candor, Civility, Cooperation and Compromise**. Without these Five C's nothing will get done and we will just kick the can down the road. (Hopefully one with sidewalks)

There are clearly some real tangible and intangible issues that the Town Council and Mayor have to address during this term.

Let's start with the Intangible: I believe the town should make a new serious commitment to efficiencies, resident inclusion and our town communication skills. No one in this town should be in the dark about what's going on. Tangible issues start and stop with the upcoming budget and everything that will be tied to it: Town Hall, infrastructure/ street repair, storm water management and modernizing our Town Communications.

Why Me and why now?

Why Me?

My family & I moved to Garrett Park in June of 2005. It almost feels too obvious to state but to quote the *Princess Bride*, it was "Love, True Love" at first sight. I quickly joined the Garrett Park Citizens Association and spent many fantastic years working alongside some of my neighbors organizing both joyous celebrations (4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and BBQ/ Spooky Woods, Town Dinner) and more serious town debates on the pressing issues of that time. During that stretch I also spent a term as the CA President. I served on the Garrett Park Pool Association Board and still belong to that town treasure – our town pool. I also coached a group of Garrett Park boys in competitive travel baseball for many years. My wife, Natalie, is also very active in Town, serving as a Co-Chair of Garrett Park's own charity, G.I.V.E.S. Our children, Malina and Sam went to GPES and then onto Tilden Middle School and now attend (sort of) Walter Johnson High School.

Professionally, I am Vice President of an Association Management Company and I oversee raising non-dues revenue for over 25 different national and international trade associations. I manage a team based in DC and Chicago. My day, every day is filled with empowering and managing people, dealing with budgets, business process and technology efficiencies. I like to say, my role is part Vince Lombardy, part Sigmund Freud, and part Steve Jobs. (Although I would be so lucky to be a fraction any of those three)

### Why Now?

For years, some folks in town asked me to run and my answer was always, "now is not the right time." Well, NOW is the right time. And as they say, whoever "they" are, "Doers do". I'm a doer and that's what this Town and the Town Council need. A "doer" people can trust and rely on to work solely in the best interest of the greater good of Garrett Park.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be honored and humbled if you voted for me.